

REMARKS

At the outset, Applicants note that Seki (U.S. Pat. Application No. 2003/0137242 A1) does not qualify as prior art under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e). Seki was filed on December 5, 2002 and therefore has a §102(e) date of December 5, 2002. The present application properly claims priority to Japanese Patent Application No. 2002-287453 filed on September 30, 2002, which was filed before December 5, 2002 (Seki's §102(e) date). A sworn translation of Japanese Patent Application No. 2002-287453 is attached herewith. Therefore, Seki does not qualify as prior art under §102(e). Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 5 and 6 are in condition for allowance.

Claims 5 and 6 are now pending in the application. By this paper, Claims 1-4 and 7-15 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. The following remarks are believed to be fully responsive to the outstanding Office Action and are believed to place the application in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 5-6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Seki (U.S. 2003/0137242 A1).

This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 5 and 6 are in condition for allowance as Seki does not qualify as a prior art under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e). Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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